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Long Line Release

CHATTOOGA RIVER CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED



February 2009

Volume 21 Number 2

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are already through one quarter of our 2008-2009 Fiscal Year. At the beginning of the year, your Board outlined an aggressive CORE Agenda which spelled out all our major activities and goals. This was published in the November Long Line Release along with our budget. If you haven't already, it would be good for you to review these documents so you know how our resources are being directed and also to identify ways in which you can participate.

The chapter faces two main challenges: first is securing the funding necessary and, second, the manpower resources to execute our Agenda. In these tough economic times, it will be a big task to secure the targeted income from our two main fundraising efforts – the annual banquet and our corporate fundraising initiative. We could use new ideas and broad participation from many more members.

Likewise, spreading the load from the many activities will generate broader enthusiasm and avoid burnout from our main contributors. As with all activities like TU, the benefits you obtain will be proportionate to your participation.

In this 50th year for Trout Unlimited, and 21st year for the Chattooga River Chapter, let's all get on the bandwagon to make it successful, despite the challenges we face. Contact any Board Member to find ways you can help.

SC Trout Unlimited (TU) Council Honors Don Eng

At the January 12, 2009 Saluda River TU Chapter meeting in Columbia, SC, charter member, Don Eng, of Columbia was recognized for lifetime achievements

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FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009 7:30 P.M. DNR OFFICE, CLEMSON

At our February meeting, chapter member **Dave Dumin** will present a program on fishing the Bow River near Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Dave has made regular trips to the Bow for several years, and has learned a few things about getting the most out of your fishing trip. His tips and general fishing info will provide an interesting talk, and help you if you get the chance to fish this wonderful trout water up north.

TROUT UNLIMITED'S 50th Anniversary History Highlights

2009 marks the 50th Anniversary of Trout Unlimited's founding. Each month for the coming year, the LLR will offer a bit of history of both the national organization and the Chattooga River Chapter.

1959: Trout Unlimited is founded on the banks of the Au Sable River near Grayling, Michigan. The 16 fishermen who gathered at the home of George Griffith were united by their love of trout fishing, and by their growing discontent with the state's practice of stocking its waters with "cookie cutter trout"—catchable-sized hatchery fish. Convinced that Michigan's trout streams could turn out a far superior fish if left to their own devices, the anglers formed a new organization: Trout, Unlimited (the comma was dropped a few years later) dedicated to ensuring that wild and native trout populations were allowed to thrive, as nature intended.

From the beginning TU was guided by the principle that if we "take care of the fish, then the fishing will take care of itself." And that principle was grounded in science. "One of our most important objectives is to develop programs and recommendations based on the very best information and thinking available," said TU's first president, Dr. Casey E. Westell Jr. "In all matters of trout management, we want to know that we are substantially correct, both morally and biologically."

Continued on Page 3

CHATTOOGA RIVER CHAPTER

President	Bill Caruthers	868-7354
Vice President	Art Shick	638-9666
Secretary	Bill Foster	882-7151
Treasurer	Murray Lee	985-2218

Board Members (2009)		
Ron Gardzalla,		654-3432
Bill Foster, Chapter Secretary & Liaison w/USFS		882-7151
Art Shick,		638-9666

Board Members (2010)		
Bill Caruthers, Chapter President		868-7354
Murray Lee, Chapter Treasurer		985-2218
Tom McInnis, Projects Coordinator & National Leadership Council		654-4003

Board Members (2011)		
Vance Baird, Conservation Chair		654-1406
Ed Few		868-2409
Marcus Leach		864-506-4106

**THE CHATTOOGA RIVER CHAPTER WILL HOLD ITS
REGULAR CHAPTER MEETINGS AT THE
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES "LLOYD C. WEBB" NATURAL
RESOURCES OFFICE.**

The office is on a bank of Lake Hartwell in an area of Clemson University land known as "Cherry's Crossing." This was at one time the railroad destination for Clemson Cadets returning to school from the South Carolina low-state.

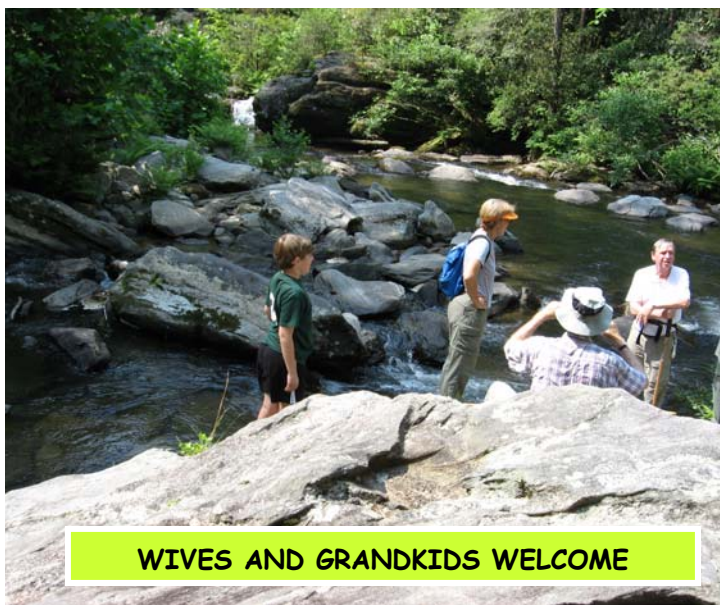
From US Hwy 123, exit on US Hwy 76 toward Anderson. Go 2.0 miles and turn right at the DNR directional sign.

From Anderson on US 76, turn left 2.7 miles past the Pendleton (SC Bus. 28) exit.

This is Old Stone Church Road.

Go 0.9 miles and turn left at the DNR directional sign onto Cherry Road. Then watch for another DNR sign **after 0.4 miles and turn left**. You are now at Cherry's Crossing.

Cross the railroad track and bear right at the triangular traffic median, but then go straight across (there's another directional sign.) Follow this road to its end at the Lloyd C. Webb Natural Resources Office.



WIVES AND GRANDKIDS WELCOME



**CHATTOOGA RIVER CHAPTER
TU DECALS**

1 1/4 X 3 INCHES

EXTERIOR APPLICATION

\$5.00 EACH

**TO ORDER BY MAIL, SEND \$5 EACH TO:
CHATTOOGA RIVER CHAPTER
540 EAST MAIN STREET**

For information on issues presented, you can contact your Chattooga River chapter officers, Board members, or the National Office:



Trout Unlimited
1300 North 17th Street, Suite 500
Arlington, Virginia 22209-3801
(703)522-0200 Main (Phone)
(703)284-9400 (Fax)
trout@tu.org (e-mail)
<http://www.tu.org>

**"Trout Unlimited's mission is to
Conserve, protect, and restore North America's
Coldwater fisheries and their watersheds."**

50th Anniversary History Highlights

1988. Following an exploratory meeting of interested upstate trout fishermen on May 25, 1988, the CHATTOOGA RIVER CHAPTER of TROUT UNLIMITED (CRCTU) was organized in Clemson, SC on June 15, 1988. This chapter was created to fill the gap between active chapters in Greenville, SC (Mountain Bridge Chapter) and Clayton, GA (Rabun County Chapter). A number of early members transferred from the Mountain Bridge Chapter to the new chapter for travel convenience.

At the organizational meeting the following initial officers and directors were elected: **Art Shick**, President; **Lindsay Chase**, VP; **Ray Mortensen**, Secretary; **Webb Alspaugh**, Treasurer and Directors: **Robert Cureton**, **Gus Gustafson**, **Ellis Ivey**, **Ben Dysart**, **John Steed** and **Earl Highfill**.

DON ENG WAS HONORED—

with the SC Trout Unlimited 2008 “Palmetto Trout Award.”

Past Council Chair and fellow chapter charter member, Malcolm Leaphart, summarized Don’s many efforts for coldwater fisheries management before presenting the **2008 ‘Palmetto Trout Award’** plaque.

Malcolm first noted that Don had been awarded a special *‘Friends of Trout’* award from TU upon his retirement as Supervisor of the National Forests in SC for his sound natural resources management, including coldwater fisheries. In addition to watershed protection in the forests, Don was instrumental in helping to fund and in actively supporting with staffing the three year macro-invertebrate and other studies of the Chattooga River in the 1980’s. That multi-agency project with TU and the state fisheries agencies of SC, GA, and NC gave impetus to the ‘Chattooga Coalition’ of agency and advocate groups which still meets and works together to improve the trout fishery of that national wild and scenic river by sharing data and coordinating projects. The project also galvanized the Saluda River and Mountain Bridge (Greenville, SC) TU Chapters

and the SC Council of TU; and, helped to foster the formation of the Chattooga River Chapter in Clemson, SC and the Rabun Gap Chapter in Clayton, GA.

In addition to his support throughout his career with the US Forest Service, Don was one of 12 charter members along with Malcolm when the Saluda River Chapter was formed in 1982. Over the years, Don served in many chapter roles, including a term as chapter President, and also as a SC TU Council chapter delegate for more than 10 years. That personal involvement from a federal resource agency leader was noteworthy as it demonstrated Don’s strong personal convictions about protecting and enhancing coldwater fisheries.

In the past decade, Don continued as an active TU chapter member, serving on the Saluda Shoals Park Development Board, and as a local chapter representative in meetings with SC Electric & Gas, including the lengthy Saluda hydro relicensing process. A strong advocate for both safety concerns in the lower Saluda and fisheries, Don long championed better flows and dissolved oxygen maintenance for this unique and significant trout fishery in the midlands of SC. Don was also a Board member and a long time Freshwater Fisheries Chair for the SC Wildlife Federation and fostered networking of resource conservation groups in those roles, including SC TU affiliated chapters for many years.

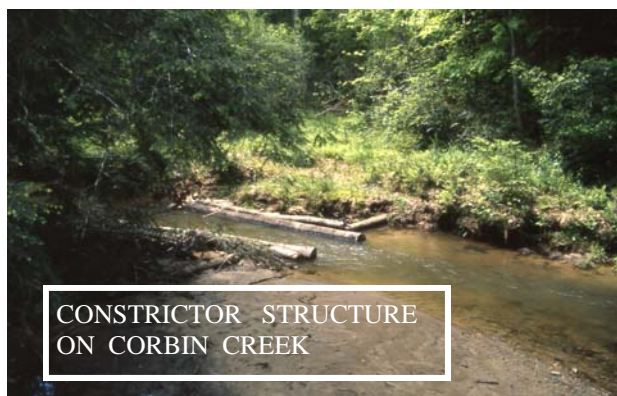
Don has continued in recent years with advocacy for the upstate trout waters of SC, especially the Chattooga where he worked in support of maintaining the foot traffic only access to the section of river above Highway 28. That zoning strategy which allowed boating, including commercial operations, in the lower 30 miles of river, has been successful for over 30 years since national ‘Wild and Scenic’ River status was granted in protecting the wilderness experience and trout fishery above Highway 28.

STREAM PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS OF CRCTU

Our chapter has a number of stream conservation projects that are on-going -- a couple of these projects have been going on for two decades. Late in April, John Garton, Fred Marcinak, Charlie Matthews, Leon Stenzel, Ron Gardzalla and Dave Van Lear met to discuss these projects and how the chapter could keep them going. Fred, John, and Dave agreed to be the Chapter's coordination team and we appointed Team Leaders for each stream project. Our current stream projects, as we briefly described them at our last meeting, are:

1. **Corbin Creek Habitat Enhancement Project.** In the late 1980s and early 90s, our chapter installed 41 stream structures to provide cover and enhanced stream habitat for Corbin Creek. Corbin Creek has a wild population of small rainbows and supports a major run of large spawning brown and rainbow trout from Lake Jocassee. The stream has been visited several times in recent years and it was noted that many of the structures need maintenance. We need volunteers to hike in and move stream rocks to enhance the functioning of the structures. Dave Van Lear will remain project leader.
2. **Limber Pole Creek Habitat Enhancement Project.** In the mid 90s, the chapter installed several structures to improve habitat for trout in Limber Pole Creek. DNR stocked brook trout in the stream. This stream is on private property and is owned by a water-bottling company. We need volunteers to help determine if those trout survived and reproduced, and whether stream structures need maintenance. Fred Marcinak and Ben Morton have agreed to be project leaders.
3. **Whitewater River Conservation Project.** In the early 90s, our chapter partnered with Duke Energy and other conservation/environmental groups to protect the beautiful Whitewater River. The partnership developed a plan that has maintained the quality of the river and its fishery for over 15 years. Charles Matthews and the CRCTU hiking group have agreed to monitor the trails and general condition of the Whitewater watershed.
4. **King Creek Brook Trout Restoration Project.** Four years ago, our chapter led a SC Council project to restore the southern Appalachian strain of brook trout to King Creek. Non-native species (primarily brown trout) were removed and brook trout stocked. For two years, reproduction has been documented and the population is increasing. Large trees (primarily dying hemlocks) were felled in the stream to provide cover and food energy. We will need volunteers to help electroshock the stream the first week of June. Dave Van Lear continues as project leader.
5. **Crane Creek Brook Trout Restoration Project.** Three years ago, our chapter began a partnership with DNR and the US Forest Service to restore southern Appalachian brook trout to Crane Creek. As with King Creek, non-native species were first removed and the brookies stocked. Reproduction has been documented by electroshocking and habitat has been improved by adding large woody debris to the stream channel. We will need volunteers to help electroshock the stream the first week of June. Dave Van Lear continues as project leader.
6. **Carrick Creek Brook Trout Restoration Project.** This is another project started three years ago. Along with DNR and the US Forest Service, we have added the SC PRT as a partner. Wild "mixed strain" brook trout were stocked in Carrick Creek, a stream in Table Rock State Park that was fishless prior to restoration. TU volunteers toted wild brookies 0.5 miles above the nature center to the flats. Reproduction has been observed. We will use this stream for educational purposes to tell the story of the brookie in SC. John Garton will be project leader.
7. **Eastatoe Creek Angler Access Project.** This is also known as the Dug Mountain Project. It involves cooperative work with Duke Energy, who constructed a handicapped angler access platform to enable handicapped anglers to fish the Eastatoe River. There are numerous other access points along the river. TU will attempt to enlist the help of other groups to keep the river corridor clean. Leon Stenzel and Lee Murray are leaders for this project.

We encourage chapter members to volunteer to help in one or more of these projects. Please let Team Leaders know if you can help. Team Leaders will present their plans for each project at the October planning meeting and will present a yearly 2-3 page progress report (including pictures) at a Chapter meeting. The annual reports will be compiled and become a continuing history of the stream projects.



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ON CORBIN CREEK





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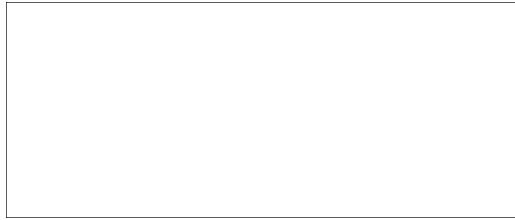

Trout in the Classroom Update

Rainbow eggs introduced Nov. 20 and began hatching Dec. 3, 2008. Hatching was complete by Dec 08, 2008. We lost approximately 22 eggs or fry out of 300 prior to fish being released from the basket on Jan 13, 2009. Length is approximately 3/4 of an inch.

Food was first introduced on Dec. 21 and by Dec. 29, feeding was very active. Today, January 20, 2009, all fish appear happy and are actively feeding in the aquarium. Approximate length is one inch, and most are nicely fat and growing. Note the one albino fry in the picture (circled).

Report from Tom Hill, Teacher
John T. Simpson Alternative Education Center





Long Line Release
 Trout Unlimited
 540 East Main Street
 Pendleton, SC 29670

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING
 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009**

**DAVE DUMIN
 FISHING THE BOW RIVER
 ALBERTA, CANADA**

SEE PAGE 1

**CHATTOOGA RIVER CHAPTER
 BOARD MEETING
 FEBRUARY 17, 2009**

Chattooga River Chapter TU

President	Bill Caruthers	868-7354
Vice President	Art Shick	638-9666
Secretary	Bill Foster	882-7151
Treasurer	Murray Lee	985-2218
LLR Editor	Ben Morton 540 E. Main St. Pendleton, SC 29670	(864) 646-3055 crctu@ bellsouth.net

The Chattooga River Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets at 7:30 PM on the first TUESDAY of each month at the SC Department of Natural Resources "LLOYD C. WEBB" NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE near Clemson University. The doors open at 7:00.

See Page 2 for directions.

The Chattooga River Chapter Website:

www.chattoogatu.org